

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201895

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 201895

NODIS

FOL REPEAT KABUL 5536 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 25

QTE

S E C R E T KABUL 5536

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, SOV

REPORTED SOVIET APPROACH TO PAKISTAN ON PAK/AF BORDER

REF: A. STATE 195235 B) KABUL 5307 C. ISLAMABAD 7433

1. PAKISTAN DCM IN KABUL TANVIR AHMED KHAN PAID CALL ON ME  
AUGUST 24 TO BRIEF ME ON BEHALF OF AMBASSADOR ARSHAD "ON AN  
EXTRAORDINARY SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH HAD OCCURRED RECENTLY".

HE S

ID IT INVOLVED SOVIET/PAK RELATIONS AND THE RUSSIAN  
POSITION IN SOUTH ASIA. I DID NOT INDICATE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 201895

2. PAK DCM SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO KABUL PUZANOV HAD ENCOUNTERED PAK AMBASSADOR ALI ARSHAD AT A RECEPTION ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 8 AND PUZANOV HAD TEASED ARSHAD ABOUT NEVER CALLING ON THE RUSSIANS. PUZANOV ADDED THAT HE KNEW THAT ARSHAD WAS SEEING THE CHINESE "ALL THE TIME". PUZANOV ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID TO ARSHAD HE HAD AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR HIM.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON AUGUST 9, ARSHAD CALLED ON PUZANOV AT THE USSR EMBASSY. AT THIS MEETING, ACCORDING TO PAK DCM KHAN, PUZANOV DELIVERED A STERN LECTURE ON RECENT ALLEGED UNFRIENDLINESS ON THE PART OF PAKISTAN TOWARDS RUSSIAN AND ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IF SUCH UNFRIENDLY TRENDS WERE TO CONTINUE, THE RUSSIANS MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THAT "COLONIAL REMNANT," THE PAKISTAN/AFGHAN BORDER. (AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE PAK/AFGHAN BORDER HAD NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED BEFORE BY THE RUSSIANS.)

4. THE PAK DCM SAID THIS CONVERSATION WAS REPORTED TO ISLAMABAD AND, STILL ACCORDING TO THE PAK DCM, THE PUZANOV DEMARCHE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS RAISED IN ISLAMABAD WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL ZORIN DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO KHAN, ZORIN TOLD THE PAKI TA IS THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, SINCE RUSSIAN POLICY REMAINED CONSTANT TOWARD PAKISTAN.

5. THEN, TWO DAYS AGO (AUGUST 22 OR 23), KHAN TOLD ME, PUZANOV ENCOUNTERED ARSHAD AT A SOCIAL OCCASION IN KABUL AND "OUT OF THE BLUE" DENIED THAT HE HAD SAID ANYTHING TO ARSHAD ON AUGUST 9TH ABOUT CALLING INTO QUESTION THE PAK/AF FRONTIER. WHEN ARSHAD SAID HE WAS QUITE SURE HE HAD UNDERSTOOD PUZANOV'S PRESENTATION, PUZANOV RETORTED THAT HIS RUSSIAN TRANSLATOR MADE A MISTAKE.

6. AT THE END OF THE ACCOUNT, I ASKED TANVIR KHAN WHAT HE MADE OF ALL THIS. KHAN REPLIED THAT HE FELT PERHAPS PUZANOV HAD "OVERDONE IT" IN EXPRESSING USSR CONCERN TO PAKISTAN FOR THE INTEGRITY OF AFGHANISTAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PANJSHIR INSURGENCY IN JULY 1975. (THERE WERE REPORTS AT THE TIME THAT THE INSURGENCY HAD PAK SUPPORT). HOWEVER, KHAN SAID, ISLAMABAD HAD BEEN VERY WORRIED BY THE ORIGINAL RUSSIAN DEMARCHE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 201895

SINCE THE PAKS ARE WATCHING CLOSELY WHAT KHAN DESCRIBED AS "THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN INDIA" WHICH COULD LEAD THE DELHI GOVERNMENT TO MILITARY ADVENTURISM AGAINST PAKISTAN. SUCH A VENTURE, ACCORDING TO KHAN, MIGHT INVOLVE THE AFGHANS AND BE ORCHESTRATED BY THE SOVIETS TO DESTROY PAKISTAN AND ENHANCE THE RUSSIAN POSITION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

7. I THANKED MR KHAN FOR CONFIDING IN ME AND TOLD HIM IT

WAS OUR ASSESSMENT HERE THAT AT PRESENT THE AFGHAN MILITARY  
BY ITSELF POSED NO THREAT TO PAKISTAN. I ALSO TOLD HIM IT  
WAS US POLICY TO URGE RESTRAINT AND MODERATION ON THE  
AFGHANS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN.

8. KHAN, WHILE AGREEING THAT THE AFGHAN ARMY BY ITSELF WAS  
NO MENACE TO PAKISTAN, SAID THE SOVIETS AND INDIANS HAD TO  
BE CLOSELY WATCHED. KHAN SAID THE RUSSIANS WERE MOVING MORE  
ADVISORS INTO THE AFGHAN ARMY AND SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WAS  
POTENTIALLY OMINOUS.

9. WE AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THESE MATTERS.

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO ISLAMABAD, DELHI  
MOSCOW AND TEHRAN.  
CURRAN

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## Message Attributes

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